

Hoye: Can you believe it? Computers in supermarkets

By Fred Hoye

I'm happy the whole thing is working out for Fred Hoye. But I still can't get used to the thought of buying a computer at a grocery store.

Imagine having a teenage boy ask, "Would you like your computer in a paper or plastic bag?"

I suppose I'll say, "I don't care. Just don't squish the bread."

Computers for everyone?

A few weeks ago, I wrote about a government report that said, among other things, that only 40 percent of American homes have computers, and only 25 percent of those machines are connected to the Internet.

I suggested that it would be nice to get everybody in the country online, but that it would be difficult to do using standard computers. They're just too expensive and complicated.

My solution, I wrote, would involve the invention of a small device that could be connected to the telephone line and allow basic Web access. The device would be free or no more than \$30.

I asked readers to send in their ideas and comments on the subject of wiring America. Here are some of the notes I received.

• **Natal K.**, a reader from Maryland, wrote, "To a certain extent, the dream of a \$30 device is reality in Maryland. Practically all Maryland public libraries offer a local telephone number for access to the Internet."

• **John A. G.**, a reader from San Jose, Calif., wrote, "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

• **John A. G.**, a reader from San Jose, Calif., wrote, "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

• **John A. G.**, a reader from San Jose, Calif., wrote, "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

• **With online providers offering free computers in exchange for signing up,** I think it's just a matter of time before most people have both computers and Internet access, if they're willing to spend a little time learning how to use it.

• **If people aren't motivated** enough to do this much, a part of me wonders about the future of our country. If someone in Maryland takes a \$30 to a flea market, most likely that will easily buy a computer for access to the Internet.

(In Arizona, we have essentially

the same thing. It's called AOL (aol.com), a free Web-based Arizona State University. It offers free text-based access to the Internet, and it's open to anyone with a computer, modem and phone line.)

• **James G. wrote:** "The solution lies in an alternative operating system (called) Linux. Unlike Windows or Macintosh, Linux is freely distributable. You can take one installation CD and install it on as many computers as you like, and it's all legal."

• **Thomas K. wrote** that his solution to getting wired without computers has been WebTV (www.webtv.com). "I've had mine about six weeks, and am satisfied. I'm a senior citizen and didn't want to get into computers."

• **K.C.** argued that we shouldn't worry about wiring everybody. "Something people should do for themselves. We can make it easier, but that's all. This is supposed to be a free-market economy — let's let it work."

Free speech vs. kid safety fight rages

By Fred Hoye

Library District board of trustees. Across the hall from the children's section in Phoenix Library, through two wooden doors, sit six terminals with full Internet access, available to all.

That's information Colorado Springs residents should have access to, unfiltered. Rasmussen said that looking up, say, breast cancer, to information is the cornerstone of American freedom. Rasmussen said that the library hasn't closed the door on filtering, and in fact has commissioned a committee to study filtering programs.

In Arizona, access to the Internet is restricted to minors at public schools and libraries.

A bill passed this year by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jane Hull in April last year gave public schools to equip computers with software or filtering systems that prevent minors from accessing harmful or pornographic material.

The law, which was scheduled to take effect last week, also requires public libraries to equip

either their computers with filtering, or to implement policies restricting access to minors by Jan. 1.

Public schools and libraries that comply with the law will be given criminal and civil immunity from liability for damages to minors.

Filtering isn't as easy as it sounds. Many filters screen Web pages containing certain words, which would prevent a viewer from looking up, say, breast cancer.

Besides, librarians ask that Internet sites do you filter? One person's pornography may be another's art. Do you block out hate sites? Ones that would prevent a student from researching the history of the Ku Klux Klan?

"If you start saying we need to filter the Internet to protect any particular class of people, then where do you draw the line?" Rasmussen asks.

But librarians draw the line on printed material. None of the Phoenix Public Library District's branches carries *Posthouse*, *Hustler* or *Playboy*.

Because of space, budgets and taste, libraries make judgments every day on what the public can read or see. Why not make the same judgments about the Internet?

That's the question Hank Long and his employees at Englewood Library District asked when they met with librarians in the library in 1997.

They settled on a \$100,000 system that allows three levels of access. The most restricted level links to only 5,000 sites. A middle level cuts off most sexual sites and sites that may contribute to violence. The top level allows free access. Internet users pop electronically coded links into the computer, which automatically selects them at the appropriate level.

People ages 18 get to choose which level they want. Minors' parents choose the level.

"There is not a perfect system," Long said. "There is no perfect system. It doesn't exist. And waiting for a perfect system is an excuse to do nothing."

Rasmussen adds another point: Parents need to be the ultimate censors. "The core solution is for parents and guardians to be involved in their children's lives," he said.

He said, "You would the easiest information on this subject ... and perhaps you will have to cut your words ... and if you follow the leading article in media ... it is perhaps the only 'good' that you will be cutting ... Jane Kohart-Barthel, Atlanta Ga."

Now, Jane, I didn't know that I could discredit America by expressing an opinion. I guess they repealed the Constitution in preparation for the end of the world. And yes, if you're right, I'll have to cut my words. And you'll be over at Dave's house eating Spam and dried eggs.

Your article regarding America's obsession about Y2K is the most mislabeled article on Y2K I've ever read. Your problem is that you are in denial just like most Americans. You want to deny that a catastrophe is on the brink. You want to deny that JUDGMENT has come upon this rebellion, and sinful nation. And most of all, you want to deny that GOD is slaying it trying to get this planet's attention.

Melvin K. Douglas

Melvin, thanks for your message. I haven't had anyone call me re: dated play Y2K and not inform the citizenry of the risks by not being prepared ... even beyond 1 day's ... there was panic and horror if things are bad and people are caught without food and water and power. You obviously have done nothing as far as research ... and it

shows ... you would the easiest information on this subject ... and perhaps you will have to cut your words ... and if you follow the leading article in media ... it is perhaps the only 'good' that you will be cutting ... Jane Kohart-Barthel, Atlanta Ga."

Now, Jane, I didn't know that I could discredit America by expressing an opinion. I guess they repealed the Constitution in preparation for the end of the world. And yes, if you're right, I'll have to cut my words. And you'll be over at Dave's house eating Spam and dried eggs.

Your article regarding America's obsession about Y2K is the most mislabeled article on Y2K I've ever read. Your problem is that you are in denial just like most Americans. You want to deny that a catastrophe is on the brink. You want to deny that JUDGMENT has come upon this rebellion, and sinful nation. And most of all, you want to deny that GOD is slaying it trying to get this planet's attention.

Melvin K. Douglas

Melvin, thanks for your message. I haven't had anyone call me re: dated play Y2K and not inform the citizenry of the risks by not being prepared ... even beyond 1 day's ... there was panic and horror if things are bad and people are caught without food and water and power. You obviously have done nothing as far as research ... and it

shows ... you would the easiest information on this subject ... and perhaps you will have to cut your words ... and if you follow the leading article in media ... it is perhaps the only 'good' that you will be cutting ... Jane Kohart-Barthel, Atlanta Ga."

Now, Jane, I didn't know that I could discredit America by expressing an opinion. I guess they repealed the Constitution in preparation for the end of the world. And yes, if you're right, I'll have to cut my words. And you'll be over at Dave's house eating Spam and dried eggs.

Your article regarding America's obsession about Y2K is the most mislabeled article on Y2K I've ever read. Your problem is that you are in denial just like most Americans. You want to deny that a catastrophe is on the brink. You want to deny that JUDGMENT has come upon this rebellion, and sinful nation. And most of all, you want to deny that GOD is slaying it trying to get this planet's attention.

Melvin K. Douglas

Melvin, thanks for your message. I haven't had anyone call me re: dated play Y2K and not inform the citizenry of the risks by not being prepared ... even beyond 1 day's ... there was panic and horror if things are bad and people are caught without food and water and power. You obviously have done nothing as far as research ... and it

DATEBOOK

Agenda: Learn effective techniques for handling projects, people and situations. **Cost:** \$149. **Sponsor:** CareerTrack Seminars. **Information/registration:** 1-800-334-6780.

GET A REMODELING CLUE, OR SO YOU WANT TO BE YOUR OWN GENERAL CONTRACTOR **When:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 12. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Design, construction and general contractor Jerry Kadarian will discuss city regulations and codes. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

MARKETING AND SALES NETWORK **When:** 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 12. **Where:** Kingfisher Restaurant, 2544 E. Grand Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to creatively develop business leads. **Cost:** \$9 members, \$11 non-members. **Sponsor:** Resources For Women Inc. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

HOING-OUTING WORKSHOP **When:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. **Where:** Westford College School of Real Estate, 1000 N. 10th St., Phoenix. **Agenda:** Learn how to reduce the stress and cost of home buying. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Realty Executives and Allied Mortgage Capital Corp. **Information/registration:** (602) 510-9107.

WOMEN BUSINESS BUILDERS: EASY STRESS BUSTERS **When:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn techniques to deal with personal and professional stress from Joanne P. Stein of JPS & Associates. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

MANAGERS: You're Not Alone. **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to manage your business. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

MANAGERS: You're Not Alone. **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to manage your business. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

MANAGERS: You're Not Alone. **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to manage your business. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

MANAGERS: You're Not Alone. **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to manage your business. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

MANAGERS: You're Not Alone. **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to manage your business. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

FREE INTERNET Month After Month **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to use the Internet for free. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME A NIGHTMARE **When:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 10. **Where:** Glendale Public Library, 5555 W. Brown St. **Agenda:** Learn how to identify financial problems before they become a nightmare. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Glendale Public Library. **Information/registration:** (623) 950-3554.

LIVING OUR VISION NETWORK **When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 11. **Where:** Maxwell's Restaurant, 1681 N. Swan Road, Tucson. **Agenda:** Learn how to live our vision. **Cost:** Free. **Sponsor:** Maxwell's Restaurant. **Information/registration:** (520) 386-8110.

(Almost actual size)

For a big Internet experience you need a big cable.

Now you can get downstream speeds on the Internet up to 100 times faster than traditional phone modems. No additional phone line required, no dial-up and no waiting.

Order on-line at www.phx.cox.com/bigcable and receive a bonus Internet offer!

COX @ Home.
The High-Speed Internet Service™